

JUDICIAL BRANCH
MAINE CASA ADVISORY PANEL

Type: Standing Committee
Established: 4 M.R.S. § 1505
Chair: Judge Christine Foster
Report November 30, annually
Date: Maine Supreme Judicial Court
Reports to:

I. Purpose:

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program was established within the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide volunteer lay persons to serve as court-appointed special advocates or guardians ad litem under Title 22 Maine Revised Statutes section 4005 in child abuse and neglect cases. 4 M.R.S. § 1501.

The purpose of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel is to set the policy for and monitor the Maine CASA Program in recruiting, training, screening, and overseeing volunteer guardians *ad litem* appointed in child protection actions. 4 M.R.S. § 1505.

The Advisory Panel supports the vision of the Maine CASA Program that every Maine child has a safe, permanent, and loving home.

II. Activities:

The advisory panel may:

- Review and comment on the CASA Program's policies and procedures.
- Identify and support marketing and recruitment efforts.
- Identify additional grant funding sources.
- Identify training and education needs for volunteers.
- Review the annual report to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court (SJC).
- Establish subcommittees to focus on designated issues.

III. Authority:

The advisory panel may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside the Judicial Branch. The panel may invite consultants to the meeting as needed.

The panel may establish subcommittees to focus on designated issues. The Maine CASA Program Manager will chair the subcommittee meetings. The subcommittees may seek input, suggestions, and recommendations from individuals and groups within and outside the Judicial Branch and invite consultants to the meetings as needed.

IV. Membership:

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court appoints members for three-year terms. Members serve at the sole discretion of the Chief Justice. The membership list is attached hereto.

Judge Christine Foster shall serve as Chair of the Panel.

Maine CASA Program Manager Elizabeth A. McCullum is appointed as the *ex officio* consultant to the panel.

Laura M. O'Hanlon, Chief of Court Management, will serve as the *liaison* for the State Court Administrator.

V. Meetings:

The entire advisory panel shall meet as often as is necessary to fulfill its responsibilities but no less than twice annually. The Chair shall schedule the meetings.

Subcommittees will meet as needed. The Maine CASA Program Manager will schedule subcommittee meetings. At the discretion of the Chair, a committee member will be appointed to chair the subcommittee meetings or the CASA Program Manager will serve as chair.

VI. Reporting:

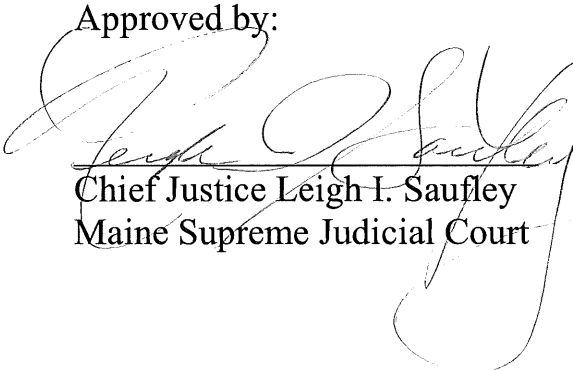
The panel shall report its activities to the SJC annually on or before November 30th of every year.

VII. Committee Duration:

The advisory panel will be a Standing Committee of the Judicial Branch. The Committee will cease to exist when the Maine CASA Program ends.

Dated: November 15, 2013

Approved by:



Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley
Maine Supreme Judicial Court

Title 4, Chapter 31

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

§1501. COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

There is established within the Administrative Office of the Courts of the Judicial Department the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program to provide volunteer lay persons to serve as court appointed special advocates or guardians ad litem under Title 22, section 4005, subsection 1, in child abuse and neglect cases. [1997, c. 393, Pt. C, §1 (AMD)•]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW) • 1997, c. 393, §C 1 (AMD) .

§1502. STAFF

With the advice and approval of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel, the State Court Administrator shall appoint a Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, who shall serve at the pleasure of the State Court Administrator. The State Court Administrator may also appoint one or more deputy directors or regional volunteer coordinators, who also shall serve at the pleasure of the State Court Administrator. The State Court Administrator shall provide necessary clerical assistance to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, within the limit of funds available. [1997, c. 393, Pt. C, §1 (AMD)•]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW) • 1997, c. 393, §C 1 (AMD)•

§1503. COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES

The Director of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program shall recruit the services of qualified persons to serve as volunteer court appointed special advocates. The volunteer court appointed special advocates are considered employees of the State only for the purposes of the Maine Tort Claims Act and are not entitled to receive compensation, but are reimbursed for their actual, necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, consistent with policies established by the Administrative Office of the Courts. [2001, c. 253, §1 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW) • 2001, c. 253, §1 (AMD) .

§1504. FACILITIES

The State Court Administrator shall provide a principal office for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program and shall arrange for such facilities throughout the State as are necessary and adequate for the court appointed special advocates to conduct their duties. [1997, c. 393, Pt. C, §1 (AMD)•]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW) • 1997, c. 393, §C1 (AMD)•

§1505. COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE ADVISORY PANEL

A Court Appointed Special Advocate Advisory Panel is appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to set the policy for and monitor the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program. [1991, co 55, (AMD)•]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW)• 1991, c. 55, (AMD)•

§1506. IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY

A person serving as a court appointed special advocate for the Judicial Department or as Director, deputy director or regional volunteer coordinator of the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program is immune from any civil liability, as are employees of governmental entities, under the Maine Tort Claims Act, Title 14, chapter 741, for acts performed within the scope of that person's administrative duties, and is entitled to quasi-judicial immunity for acts performed within the scope of the person's duties as a guardian ad litem. [2001, c. 253, §2 (AMD)•]

SECTION HISTORY

1985, c. 581, §1 (NEW)• 1989, c. 617, §2 (AMD)• 1997, co 393, §C2 (AMD)
2001, c. 253, §2 (AMD)•

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

ADVISORY PANEL MEMBERS

Hon. Christine Foster, **Chair**

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Donna Carter of Portland |) | |
| Mark Moran of Bangor |) | |
| Delia Saintcross of Portland |) | until January 1, 2016 |
| F. Mark Terison of Falmouth |) | |
| Toby Jandreau of Fort Kent |) | |

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|---------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Danylle Carson of Leeds |) | |
| Thomas Hoffman of Minot |) | until January 1, 2017 |
| Julie Footer of Portland |) | |
| Geoffrey Parkin of Bangor |) | |

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|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Margaret Coughlin LePage of Portland |) | |
| Michael Kearney of Portland |) | until January 1, 2018 |
| Mary Anne Wasileski of Waterboro |) | |

CONSULTANT:

Tracy L. Leigh, CASA Program Specialist

LIAISON TO THE STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR:

Laura M. O'Hanlon, Chief of Court Management